

# MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

## Week 18: **Rich Man and Lazarus (from Luke 16:19-31)**

### **To the Teacher:**

The story of the rich man and Lazarus is a famous parable of Jesus', often used to talk about hell and what happens when we die. However, this was not Jesus' point. It was a parable to illustrate to his listeners, the Pharisees, about how they were failing to love others. It was not intended to be a depiction of what happens to our souls. It is important our kids get the real meaning of this parable, to love and care for others. Try to steer the conversation away from questions about hell, as this is not the main point.

**Big Idea and Missio Basic:** God cares deeply for the poor and wants us to care for them too. We are servants of King Jesus!

**Starter Ideas:** You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. Coloring Page: Have the kids color a picture of the rich and poor man.
2. Free Play: Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)
3. Coin Stack: place piles of change on the table and allow the kids see how many coins they can stack on top of each other before it tips over. While the kids do this talk with them about people they see or know who are in need (could be someone homeless they drive by on the way home, someone who is older, someone who is sick or even a friend)

**Circle Time:** When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

**Welcome Song:** (To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

**Welcome, [Name]**

**Welcome, [Name]**

**Hear God's Word**

**Hear God's Word**



**We can trust in Jesus.**

**We can trust in Jesus.**

**Welcome, friends.**

**Welcome, friends.**

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

**Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus' special words. Jesus used these words of peace when the disciples were scared. Jesus said, "Peace be with you." We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, "Peace be with you."**

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God's peace by shaking their hand and saying, "Peace be with you." Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched! **Let's all say Jesus' words of peace. "Peace be with you."** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

### **Prayer Time:**

**Praying for Others:** Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them. Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

**Praying Together:** (*touch your nose for 'smell', your ears for 'hear', etc.*)

*God, help us use our **ears** to **hear** you, our **eyes** to **see** you, and our **brains** to **understand** your word. Thank you Jesus that you live in a body like ours.*

**Story:** from Luke 16:19-31

[READ]

Jesus once told this story:

"There was a rich man who was dressed in fancy clothes and lived in luxury every day. Outside his home laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores. He was so hungry he wished he could eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Because he was not well, he could only lay there while stray dogs came and licked his sores.

Eventually the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. The rich man was tormented in his death, but he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with the beggar Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus



to dip the tip of his finger in water and let it drop onto my tongue to cool me, because I am in agony in this fire.'

But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember while you lived you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. Besides, there's a great chasm set between us, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from where you are to us.'

He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, my five brothers. Let him warn them, so they will not end up in the same place of torment as me.' Abraham replied, 'They have the story of God from Moses' writings and the Prophets; let your brothers listen to them.'

'No, father Abraham,' said the rich man, 'they won't listen. But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will believe and repent.' Abraham said, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

#### *[Things to Point Out]*

- This is a parable Jesus told to make a point to the Pharisees about how they were living and how they should care for the poor, not a real life description of what happens after we die.
- The poor man was named Lazarus, but Jesus did not give the rich man in the story a name. Maybe he wanted the Pharisees listening to imagine that person could be them.
- The rich man knew Lazarus' name, but never cared for him. He even expected Lazarus to serve him in death by asking Abraham to send Lazarus to cool him!
- Abraham told the rich man his family should listen to 'Moses and the Prophets', which was the Scriptures for the Jews (*the Torah, or as we know it, Old Testament*). The Scriptures are filled with commands to love and care for the poor!
- Ask: How did Jesus give to others and show love for the poor?
- Think of Abraham's closing statement, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets (*to care for the poor*), they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead".
  - ▶ Perhaps Jesus is foreshadowing his own rising from the dead when telling this story.



- ▶ Many of the Pharisees still did not believe after Jesus rose. What will it take for us to believe?

**Snack Time: Let's take a big stretch!** Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today's snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today's snack is goldfish or veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

### **BLESS Activity:**

*\*For kids to do during the week\**

**BLESS:** Ask your parents how you can care for the poor as a family this week. Maybe you can make a card or picture and ask your parents to take you to bring that card to the person along with a meal or something else they might need.

**Optional playground time:** If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that preschool class playground time does not start until 5:30PM.

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for your word, The Bible.**

**Thank you for sending Jesus in a real body so we can know you.**

**Help us to trust that your word is true.**

**Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.**











